

From: jrod(a)mindsping.com
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/3/02 7:44pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Mam/Sir,

As a graphics designer, I make my living using computers. Therefore the issue before us affects me in a uniquely personal way. The recent decision by the U.S. Department of Justice to allow Microsoft to remain intact even after a Federal judge ruled that they were indeed a monopoly and guilty of anti-competative practices boggles my mind. This decision confirms to Microsoft that they are totally free and able to take up the whole personal and buisness computer market without anyone even lifting a finger in opposition. First it was Netscape and other smaller computer companies/makers. Who is going to be next? Are they going to destroy LINUX and the GNU free software movement because it's such a thorn in their side? Current memos floating around Microsoft that I have read confirm that Microsoft is getting ready to wage war on LINUX. Does everybody have to be running Microsoft products and pay them accordingly for that company to be satisfied? It seems that is so.

Frankly, enough is enough. I refuse to stand by and allow a large conglomerate of a corporation like Microsoft to exclusively engulf the computer market and destroy the freedom of choice that I have today. The freedom I have to buy and purchase my own software (Microsoft's .NET strategy is trying to change all that with web based "subscription" fees). The freedom I have to switch out components of my machine without having to report them to big brother (the new windows activation features in XP become void if I change a certain number of hardware components). Microsoft does not care about my freedoms as a computer user. They only care about my pocket book. If we just stand by and watch, they will take over every gate to the internet and computing world, and then set up a toll booth and charge us fees for use.

So I emlore you to please not back down to the Redmond giant in a feeble settlement. To Microsoft, money is nothing. Charging them with a fine for their corrupt practices and nothing more allows them to continue in their march toward total domination of the computing world without any resistance. Stand by your decision to not appove the DOJ's decision, and please fight for a win that would allow us as citizens and computer users to remain free in our choice of what we can and choose to do with our computers. Thank you for your time.

Jason Rodriguez
Graphics Artist/Designer
797 Whitehurst Landing
Virginia Beach, VA 23464